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Department of Defense  
**DIRECTIVE**

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March 1, 1985

NUMBER 5410.17

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SUBJECT: Informational Program for Foreign Military Trainees in the United States

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 5410.17, "An Informational Program for Foreign Military Trainees and Visitors in the United States," January 15, 1965 (hereby canceled)
  - (b) DoD Directive 5132.3, "DoD Policy and Responsibilities Relating to Security Assistance," March 10, 1981
  - (c) Public Law 87-195, "The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961," September 4, 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2151 *et seq.*)
  - (d) Public Law 90-629, "The Arms Export Control Act," October 22, 1968, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2751 *et seq.*)
  - (e) DoD 5105.38-M, "Security Assistance Management Manual," April 1, 1984, authorized by DoD Directive 5105.38, August 10, 1978
  - (f) DoD Directive 5160.66, "Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management," May 16, 1977

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**A. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE**

This Directive reissues reference (a), establishes DoD policy, and assigns responsibility within the Department of Defense for an Informational Program to enhance the formal training courses and orientation of foreign military trainees and military-sponsored visitors in the United States under the Security Assistance Program.

**B. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE**

1. This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS), the Unified and Specified Commands, Defense Agencies, and security assistance organizations (SAOs) (hereafter referred to collectively as "DoD Components") performing security assistance functions in accordance with reference (b).

2. This Directive applies to U.S. training installations overseas as appropriate to the surrounding environment. Commanders of those installations shall be informed of its contents through established channels so that they may follow its guidance.

**C. POLICY**

1. It is DoD policy to give foreign military trainees and military-sponsored visitors in the United States under the Security Assistance Program every opportunity within the limits of the time and available resources to obtain a balanced understanding of U.S. society, institutions, and ideals, and to increase trainee awareness of the basic issues involving internationally recognized human rights (see references (c) and (d)).

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2. Orientation and training costs of foreign military trainees sponsored under the International Military Education and Training Program and Foreign Military Sales training shall be financed with security assistance funds in accordance with DoD 5105.38-M (reference (e)).

D. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, shall:

a. Direct and supervise the Informational Program, to include funding for the program.

b. Publish uniform implementing instructions for use throughout the Department of Defense in reference (e).

c. Assist the Commandant, Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management, in the formulation and preparation of material for the orientation and training of U.S. personnel involved in executing the program.

2. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) shall establish pricing policy for the Informational Program.

3. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

a. Establish, administer, operate, and review the programs at their respective installations based upon guidance in this Directive.

b. Review staffing at installations to ensure that personnel support is adequate.

4. Commanders of the Unified and Specified Commands and Security Assistance Organizations shall review regional Informational Program activities to ensure that the program is carried out in accordance with the information contained in this Directive.

E. PROCEDURES

DoD Components shall develop their own programs in accordance with the guidelines in this Directive.

F. INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM OBJECTIVE AND GUIDELINES

1. Objective. DoD Components shall achieve the objective of the Informational Program to promote an understanding of U.S. society, institutions, and ideals and the way in which these elements reflect U.S. commitment to basic principles of internationally recognized human rights. This objective can be achieved through better understanding of the following facets of American life:

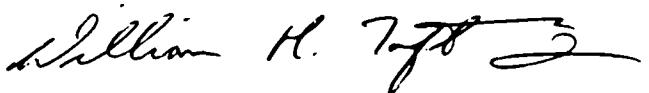
a. U.S. Government Institutions. Local, State, and national governments, the relationships between them; the principle of checks and balances and the effect upon executive initiative.

March 1, 1985  
5410.17

- b. The Judicial System. The Federal and State judicial systems and doctrine of judicial review, and the Constitutional legal status of the U.S. Armed Forces, with emphasis on their nonpolitical character.
  - c. Political Parties. American political parties and electoral procedures; the roles of opposition parties.
  - d. Press. The role of a free press and other communications media.
  - e. The Diversity of American Life. The geographic, racial, ethnic, religious, and social diversity of American life; how recent technological changes and urbanization processes are affecting this.
  - f. Women and Minorities. The recent progress in applying American ideals to women and minorities and the current steps underway to improve their opportunities.
  - g. Agriculture. The factors underlying agricultural productiveness; the changing life and role of the farmer.
  - h. Economy. The national economy, diversity of industrial and business enterprises; the role of Government and the free enterprise system; and the role of Government, private, and commercial credit.
  - i. Labor and Labor/Management Relations. The independent roles of labor and management in negotiating pay, working hours and conditions, and other benefits associated with employment.
  - j. Education. The purpose and range of educational institutions; the relationship between education and a responsible citizenry.
  - k. Public and Social Welfare. The care of the indigent, particularly the sick and aged; public assistance; unemployment benefits; the Social Security system.
1. Human Rights. The way in which all of the above elements reflect the U.S. commitment to the basic principles of internationally recognized human rights. Consistent with the responsibilities and duties of trainees, the Geneva Convention (concerning the principles and rules of the laws of armed conflict) should be included.
2. Guidelines for Individual DoD Component Informational Programs. Enclosures 1 through 6 describe the subject areas and contain related guidance appropriate for inclusion in the Informational Program and shall be used as guides in developing the content of and procedures for individual DoD Component programs.

**G. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION**

This Directive is effective immediately. Forward two copies of implementing documents to the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, within 120 days.



William H. Taft, IV  
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosures - 6

1. Informational Programs at Training Installations
2. Orientation and Debriefing in Home Country
3. Reception and Travel Arrangements
4. Suggested Trips and Visits
5. Tour of Washington, D.C.
6. Orientation Tours

March 1, 1985  
5410.17 (Encl 1)

INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS AT TRAINING INSTALLATIONS

A. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAMS

1. Taking into account any orientation previously given trainees in their home countries (see enclosure 2) and at other installations in the United States, commanders shall devise a comprehensive and integrated program that will carry out the objective of the Informational Program. The program will provide, but not be limited to, the following:
  - a. Formal military courses that incorporate the material described in paragraphs E.1.a. through l. of this Directive and will be consistent with the primary purpose of the training.
  - b. An appropriate reception and administrative briefing.
  - c. An orientation on American life and institutions.
  - d. Military and civilian sponsors.
  - e. Materials for individual reading and study.
  - f. Special lectures and speakers.
- g. Trips and visits to community points of interest, regional centers, and tours of Washington, D.C. (see enclosures 4 and 5).
2. For military trainees whose total period of training will be 7 weeks or less, the responsible commander will arrange for an orientation of a minimum of 1 hour for each week of training. For training of 8 to 13 weeks, the commander will arrange a minimum of 10 hours orientation and for training of 14 weeks or longer, a minimum of 20 hours. The minimum amount of time devoted to achieving informational coverage will be exclusive of time devoted to English language refresher training, or transportation necessary to achieve the Informational Program objective.
3. Each session will be devoted to one but no more than two facets of American life. A session may consist of a trip or visit to a local point of interest or a related group of interests, a speaker or discussion leader, or a discussion by a foreign training officer. In the case of trips and visits, background briefings will be conducted before the event. A formal lecture will be used only when other means of accomplishing the same purpose do not exist.

B. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Each Military Department will conduct conferences for persons charged with supervising, training, administrating, and operating the Informational Program to exchange information, ideas, and methods. Consultation among the Military Departments and coordination between the Military Departments and their various installations are encouraged. Additionally, to foster a high standard for the program, the Military Departments will send personnel involved in the conduct of the Informational Program to the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management for training and for the exchange of information (see DoD Directive 5160.66, reference (f)).

March 1, 1985  
5410.17 (Enc1 2)

ORIENTATION AND DEBRIEFING IN HOME COUNTRY

1. Since the preparation of foreign military trainees for their time in the United States can affect greatly the overall results of the tour or study, security assistance organizations will give careful attention to the objective of the Informational Program. It is especially important to ensure that trainees be designated well in advance so that maximum advantage may be taken to prepare the trainees for their forthcoming trip to the United States.

2. The predeparture orientation and administrative processing will emphasize the following:

a. Informational materials for individual study, including material on the United States, information about the school courses or tour, and administrative requirements for the trip.

b. Personal interviews with U.S. officers to explain or answer questions on the training and orientation material furnished.

c. Encouragement and assistance in English language training. Material for use in this training will support the Informational Program objective.

d. Advice and assistance with travel arrangements. Military entry ports, training installations, and other appropriate authorities will be provided advance notice of the trainees' scheduled arrival times.

e. Social contacts with U.S. personnel before the trip, as necessary, to prepare trainees for living in the United States.

3. After a foreign military trainee returns home from the United States, security assistance organizations shall make every attempt to debrief the returnee and continue suitable followup contacts. Moreover, every opportunity shall be taken to learn of improvements that could be made to further the Informational Program objective.

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March 1, 1985  
5410.17 (Encl 3)

RECEPTION AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Personnel in charge of arrangements for foreign military trainees and military-sponsored visitors coming to the United States under the Security Assistance Program must be acquainted with the objective of the Informational Program. They must be prepared to take advantage of opportunities that contribute to that objective while the foreign trainee is in their charge.
2. The following guidelines shall be followed by U.S. personnel when dealing with trainees and visitors upon arrival, while traveling in the United States, and on departure to their home country:
  - a. Trainees and visitors will be considered as guests of the United States and treated accordingly. Assistance through customs and currency exchange shall be furnished.
  - b. When possible, U.S. personnel of equal rank shall meet arriving foreign personnel, particularly in cases of general and flag rank, and appropriate protocol procedures shall be followed.
  - c. Information and instructions shall be given in simple, easily understood English.
  - d. Every effort shall be made to meet religious or national dietary requirements, such as providing the names of local restaurants and the type and price of food served.
  - e. Travel arrangements shall be designed to shield foreign trainees and visitors from potential affronts and indignities.
  - f. General information shall be made available on such interest items as local events, bus schedules, taxi rates, hotels, and local community organizations established for the assistance of foreign personnel.

March 1, 1985  
5410.17 (Encl 4)

SUGGESTED TRIPS AND VISITS

Listed below are subjects that support the Informational Program outlined in paragraphs E.1.a. through 1. of this Directive. Commanders are encouraged to include trainee dependents in trips and visits to points of interest when space is available and when there is no additional cost to the U.S. Government. Local commanders shall use this list as a guide, programming visits after assessing their own staff and assets, local conditions, and other means available to meet the informational objectives, including guest speakers. Some of the visits may be combined and others may be repeated, such as visits to more than one type of farm or industrial plant. For full value, however, commanders shall plan trips carefully, provide prior briefings with knowledgeable and well-briefed escorts, and ensure that persons who speak to the group are made aware of the level of English language comprehension.

1. Local Governments. At the earliest opportunity, commanders should bring foreign military trainees in contact with agencies and principal personnel of local government at the city, township, or county level. This may best be accomplished when trainees are presented formally to local officials. One purpose of such an introduction is to clarify the point many foreign visitors misunderstand; that is, local government officials are elected locally and are responsible, within broad limits, to local people rather than to central authorities.
2. State Government. As many foreign military trainees as possible should be taken to the State capital to be presented to the Governor or other high state officials in order to have an opportunity to observe selected operations of the State government. One purpose of this visit, like that outlined in paragraph 1., above, is to stress the autonomy and independence of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of State governments in relationship to the Federal Government.
3. The Judicial System. Arrangements should be made for visits to municipal, State, and Federal courts; jails and detention centers; and for meetings with officials who can describe the functions and responsibilities of those institutions. If possible, the State Supreme Court also should be included in such visits.
4. The Political Party System. An understanding of the grass roots character of the American political party organization is best gained by bringing foreign military trainees in touch with representatives of the political parties to teach them the problems of local party organization; the means by which candidates are chosen; the use of publicity and other means to gain support; and the relationships between local, State, and national party organizations. If possible, commanders also should arrange for foreign military trainees to talk with leaders of opposition parties. Such visits shall be designed to show trainees the nature of loyal opposition in this country and that the parties in power and opposition are more united than divided on the basic problems facing the American society.

5. The Newspaper, Press, Radio, and TV. Since a free press is one American institution some foreigners find difficult to grasp, visits to media offices should be arranged to show how a free press works and how editors, publishers, and owners define their responsibilities to the public. Also, radio and TV stations and newspaper printing plants are interesting from a technical point of view.

6. Women and Minority Groups. Foreign military trainees should be exposed to these groups to give the trainees an idea of the goals and progress in applying American ideals to improve opportunities for women and minorities.

7. Farms. Commanders should arrange tours to farms to show foreign military trainees the character of American agriculture. In such trips, interests and regional background of trainees should be matched with certain specialized types of farming operations in the vicinity. Especially worth underlining in such visits are marketing procedures and facilities, farm loans, and the kinds of aid farmers receive from Federal, State, and other agricultural services in combating pests and diseases and controlling breeding stock.

8. Agricultural Experiment Stations. Such trips will permit foreign military trainees to view the development of new and hybrid plants, animal and fish stock, experiments in controlling local soil conditions, pests, and diseases. The financing of the station and the means it uses to make information available to farmers are worthy of emphasis.

9. Business. Four kinds of trips are suggested to show the scope and diversity of American business enterprise:

a. Visits to industrial enterprises should be designed to give foreign military trainees an idea of the range of different kinds of industrial enterprises in the American economy, including Government-operated dams and hydro-electric installations, local affiliates of large national corporations, and smaller locally owned industries. Subjects that company officials should be encouraged to discuss include the following:

- (1) The relations between company ownership and management.
- (2) Management/union relationships.
- (3) Decisionmaking procedures in the fields of product research and development.
- (4) Production scheduling.
- (5) Marketing and cost controls.
- (6) Character and effect of governmental regulations.

b. Visits to banks, savings and loan associations, Federal Housing Administration offices, and agricultural cooperative credit facilities will underline the wide range of credit facilities available to the average American.

March 1, 1985  
5410.17 (Encl 4)

c. Visits to local brokerage houses and discussion with stockbrokers will emphasize the principles on which American financial investment is based.

d. Visits to large transportation centers for rail, air, water, truck, or pipeline will give foreign military trainees an opportunity to discuss the problems of management, maintenance, scheduling, and interconnection with transport officials.

10. Labor Unions. In addition to putting foreign military trainees and visitors in touch with local union officials, tours to regional and national union headquarters will serve the useful purpose of emphasizing the scope of such organizations, the objectives of their leadership, and their political and financial independence. In addition, trainees should be introduced to union officials during visits to industrial plants.

11. Schools and Colleges. Visits to nearby schools and colleges should be undertaken to show foreign military trainees the general availability of education, school laboratories and research facilities, extension course programs, and cultural activities such as musical symphony performances or drama workshops. College and university area study and exchange programs will be of special interest to foreigners. These visits should seek to underline the role of our schools and universities--to teach and learn, not to function as political instruments--and to show the diversity of our educational institutions, including privately endowed colleges, State or city colleges, land grant universities, junior colleges, and church-affiliated institutions.

12. Housing. Visits to model homes, apartments, publicly supported housing, and private housing will be of particular interest to foreign military trainees.

13. Historic Sites and National and State Parks. Such trips should include local, State, and national parks and monuments to underline the care taken to preserve and commemorate U.S. history and the country's dedication to clean air and a natural environment.

14. Sporting Events. Visits to baseball, football, soccer, and hockey games; golf and tennis matches; and other sporting events, such as rodeos, regattas, and horse and automobile races will show the trainee the international character of American athletic interests.

15. Public and Private Assistance Agencies. Visits to public health agencies, clinics, welfare agencies, national and State employment services, the local Social Security office, Red Cross, and United Givers Fund will give the trainees an overall picture of the assistance facilities available in this country.

16. Religious Institutions. Trainees should be given a balanced picture of religion in America, including visits to the different religious institutions that exist.

March 1, 1985  
5410.17 (Encl 5)

TOUR OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. Foreign military trainees in selected senior, career, postgraduate, and other significant courses, including officer, enlisted, and cadet courses that the Military Departments designate, will at some time during their stay in this country be afforded an opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. A major purpose of this visit is to round out their acquaintance with U.S. political institutions by showing them the relationship of the Federal Government to State and local governments and by introducing them to some of the key Federal officials, both civilian and military.

2. The Washington tour is an integral part of the Informational Program. In planning it, commanders of training installations shall coordinate the timing and itinerary of this tour with other aspects of their programs to ensure that it achieves the maximum impact.

March 1, 1985  
5410.17 (Encl 6)

ORIENTATION TOURS

1. Military Departments in charge of orientation tours for foreign military officers will keep in mind the Informational Program objective. Because of the short duration and limited purposes of such tours, special care will be required to devise an effective program. Chiefs of security assistance organizations, when proposing a tour or recommending particular individuals for inclusion, shall recommend to the appropriate Military Department the most appropriate informational objectives to be stressed and the contribution that these can make to the tour.
2. Military Departments shall instruct the escort officer (a) on the Informational Program objective described in subsection F.1. of this Directive, (b) on the specific program for each tour, and (c) on the responsibility for that program and the methods to be used to attain its objective.